

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	RM No. 11699
Encryption of Amateur Radio Communications	)	
Petition for Rulemaking	)	

**Comments**

I wish to **oppose** Mr. Rolph's petition for rulemaking.

I believe that the success of amateur radio is attributed to the fact that us licensed users are all "watchers" and are able to independently monitor each other. Mr. Rolph's petition makes no prescription for ***who can verify these encrypted communications*** or ***what those encrypted communications can contain***.

There are ***many*** other licensed methods that emergency responders currently use in order to transmit sensitive data that might come under HIPAA rules and can be encrypted, ***making it unnecessary*** to do so under amateur radio frequencies.

Emergency communications are a critical component of the mission of Amateur Radio, and are one of only four purposes that FCC uses to justify the existence of the Amateur Service. It may be that encryption does become critical to support Amateur emergency services. ***But that time has not yet come***. If we are to allow encryption on the air, which should come only after the entire ham community has discussed it thoroughly and explored all of the options.

Others who support this petition for rulemaking are, as far as I can tell, well-meaning. Many of them are involved in emergency communications. But their methods are inappropriate. ***If they want this change, they must discuss the issue thoroughly at ham conferences and in our publications***. They must allow hams to become educated about the alternatives before we decide as a community if a rule change is necessary.

Thank you for your time and I hope that this petition for rulemaking is ***dismissed*** on the basis that it would be better explored outside of the FCC and a proper petition could be brought to the commission that has the full support of the amateur radio community and addresses these key issues.

Respectfully,

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